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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending July 21, 1944

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK --- July 23rd to July 29th inclusive has been designated by the President as National Farm Safety Week, to be observed in the interest of reducing accidents among farm workers.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apricots: By July 21 last year, total rail movement of apricots from Western Region states amounted to 783 cars. This year to the same date the movement has totaled 1759 cars. To this total California has contributed 887 cars and Washington 849. In addition, truck movement has been heavy and has been estimated at over 350 carloads for three of the larger wholesale markets.

Wholesale prices as of Friday this week were 3 cents to 7 cents per pound in Los Angeles, 4 cents to 8 cents in San Francisco, 11 cents to 12 cents in Portland and 8 cents to 17 cents in Seattle. Supplies were liberal in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, moderate in Portland and scarce in Seattle.

Peaches: Elberta peaches on the Chicago and St. Paul auction markets sold at average prices of \$2.00 to \$2.03 per lug during the week.

This year, to date, rail shipments total 7217 cars for the United States and 456 cars for California, compared with 3818 cars for the U. S. and 1604 cars for California to the same date for last year.

Production for California, Oregon, Utah and Washington is estimated at 810,264 tons for all peaches in 1944, compared with 682,632 tons in 1943. Production for the United States is estimated at 1,660,824 tons in 1944, compared with 1,009,440 tons in 1943.

Grapes: California and Arizona grape shipments now total 565 cars, 99 cars greater than shipments last year to the same date.

Thompson Seedless prices on the New York Auction Market closed the week at \$6.06 to \$6.68 per lug. Ribiers sold on the Chicago auction market at \$9.10 to \$9.20 per lug. On local wholesale markets, prices ranged from 22 cents in the Southwest to 30 cents in the Northwest on the majority of sales for good stock.

Onions: An indication of the increased supplies of onions this year over last is the fact that shipments are 11,697 cars to date, 4860 cars greater than for 1943 to the same date. For the states of California, Idaho, Arizona, Oregon and Washington, shipments now total 2472 cars, compared with 1051 cars for the same period last year.

Shipping point prices at Phoenix, Arizona, were \$1.50 to \$1.85 per 50-pound bag at the close of the week for sweet Spanish onions. On Yellow Globe onions, the wholesale prices ranged from \$1.75 in California to \$2.25 in Oregon and Washington.



Harvest of onions in Arizona is expected to be completed about the first of August, and in California on the intermediate crop, should be about completed by the first of August. The early onion crop in the Walla Walla district of Washington is now about all harvested.

Tomatoes: Shipments of tomatoes to date this season from Western Region states total 1123 cars, compared with 950 cars for the same period last year. Most of these cars originated in Arizona and California. Total shipments for the U. S. to date this season are 18,676 cars, compared with 15,725 in 1943. Best quality pack in lugs brought from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per lug on the western wholesale markets. Prices in the Southwest were from \$2.50 to \$3.00, and in the Northwest up to \$4.00.

#### DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Production of butter in the U. S. was approximately 10 percent less this past week than it was for the corresponding week a year ago, and about 2 percent under the preceding week. Receipts on the Pacific Coast to date this year are about 20 percent less than for the same period last year. Receipts on the San Francisco market were heavier this week than last week, while on other western markets they were lower and dealers appeared to have no surplus supplies. There has been some attempt by dealers to build up reserves for later in the year use.

Eggs: In the Northwest, egg receipts showed a downward trend and prices advanced during the week. In the Southwest, receipts were slightly heavier and prices on all grades remained under those of a week earlier. On Friday the Los Angeles market was experiencing some difficulty with fresh Grade A and Grade B eggs which were in liberal supply and were backing up on dealer floors. Wholesale Grade A prices closed the week on the four Pacific Coast markets as follows: Seattle, 42 cents; Portland, 42½ to 43 cents; San Francisco, 46 to 47 cents, and Los Angeles, 45 to 46 cents.

Turkeys: The following is presented by Market News Service to clear up questions which have been raised relative to the operation of WFO 106. "Turkeys in storage prior to the effective date of the order, July 17, are free to move into civilian consumption. Turkeys moving from an unrestricted area to a restricted area become subject to the order as soon as they enter the restricted area. Old turkeys as well as young turkeys are included in the set-aside provision. Processed turkeys which are offered to the U. S. army and are rejected and released as not meeting QMC specifications are automatically released from the provisions of the order and may move into civilian channels."

#### GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: July 10 estimates released by the Crop Reporting Board indicate the total wheat acreage for harvest this year to be 60,884,000 acres, compared with 50,554,000 harvested in 1943. The same source indicates the Western Region states will have 4,812,000 acres of winter wheat and 4,631,000 acres of spring wheat for harvest this year. Estimated production for these two crops is as follows: winter wheat, U. S., 793,086,000 bushels; Western Region, 120,591,000 bushels; Spring wheat, U. S., 298,685,000 bushels; Western Region, 100,942,000 bushels.

Harvesting is progressing rapidly in all sections. In the Nebraska area, stem rust has developed to approximately a 50 percent infection in all plantings.

Prices in the Northwest were reported Friday as \$1.48 per bushel on Soft White, Western Red and Hard Red, all basis number one grade.

Barley: Prices in the west on barley declined during the week, reflecting slower demand for both feed and malting barley. Number 2 Bright Western was quoted in San Francisco at \$2.30 to \$2.32½ per 100 pounds; in Portland at \$2.45 to \$2.50, and in Los Angeles, \$2.35 to \$2.37½.

Planted acreage for harvest in the United States is estimated for 1944 to be 86.2 percent of the 1943 acreage and 110.2 percent of the 1933 - 1942 average. 1944 production for the U. S. is estimated at 93 percent of that for 1943 and 117.7 percent of the 1933 - 1942 average.

Oats: An OPA announcement was made, effective July 26, reducing ceiling prices on oats an average of five cents per bushel in production areas. The new terminal market base prices per bushel for No. 3 oats are as follows; Chicago 76 cents, Minneapolis 72, Omaha 72, Kansas City 74, St. Louis 76, Portland 71, Ogden 75, and Philadelphia 83½ cents.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts of cattle this week on the twelve principal markets were down 9 percent from those of last week. There was a larger percentage of "grass" stock on the western markets and top prices paid for "grass" steers were \$15.00 to \$15.50. Prices in most of these markets were down from 25 cents to 50 cents, but the markets cleared up fairly well. There was little change in the price of dressed carcasses over that of last week.

Hogs: Hog receipts on the twelve principal markets dropped off 56,012 head from the 443,712 head received last week. This trend was reflected on the western markets and prices were varied on those markets but were on the average about level with last week, having first dropped then advanced slightly.

Sheep: There were continued heavy receipts of lambs on western markets, and prices moved to as much as \$2.00 under last week's prices. On the San Francisco market there was received another record run on sheep and the week's total was 21,666 head. Receipts on the twelve principal U. S. markets were as much as 24 percent lower than the week previous when 237,217 head were received.

Cotton: Crop conditions in most of the cotton belt were reported as generally favorable the past week, although rain is needed in parts of Texas and in portions of the North Central area. The crop is mostly later than normal.

Prices on the 10 markets declined during the week and on Friday averaged 21.13 cents per pound for middling 15/16 inch. The price a week ago was 21.76 cents and on the same date a year ago 20.81 cents per pound.

Loan repayments, on 31,000 bales of 1942 cotton, were reported by the Commodity Credit Corporation as being the heaviest for any week this season. An advance in cotton prices during the first half of July plus the approach of the August 15, 1944, deadline for pooling 1942 cotton appear to be the chief reasons for this heavy volume of repayments.



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